Statement

The following specific policy measures were taken in recent past to strengthen the electronic industry in the country:

(a) For a number of categories, "broad-based" licences are issued.

(b) The electronic components industry has been delicensed.

(c) The import of technology and foreign collaboration are permitted in all areas of electronics, units having foreign eqity less than 40 per cent allowed in all areas.

(d) Developments of small scale industry is being encouraged. Approvals for a number of items have been decentralised to the level of State DIs. Investment limit for this sector has been revised to Rs. 35.0 lakhs and that for ancillary units to Rs. 45.0 lakhs.

(e) In order to achieve economies of scale in certain key areas, certain componnts which were reserved for small scale sector have been dereserved.

(f) In almost all areas of elctronics, excluding consumer electronics, MRTP companies have been exempted from ... ler Sections 21 and 22 of

(g) The private sector units are permitted to manufacture telephones, EPABX, teleprinters, facsimile equipment, data communication terminals, etc. In addition certain switching equipment below 2000 lines and transmission equipment below 120 voice/data channels are also allowed in the private sector. Other telecommunication items can also be taken up by the private sector with Central|State Government participation of at least 51 per cent equity shares.

(h) For computer industry, the emphasis is on the manufacture of computers based on latest technology at prices comparable with international level and progressively increasing indigenisation consistent with economic viability.

(i) A new software policy has been announced to encourage production and export of software.

(j) Import duty on raw materials, components and capital equipment has been reduced. For component industry, the duty on raw materials, parts and semi-finished goods have been rationalised.

(k) The import policy has been rationalised with a view to increase production.

(l) Government is promoting appropriate applications of electronics to improve productivity, quality, safety and quality of services.

(m) Various projects have been initiated like National Radar Council, National Micro-electronics Council, Council for Development of Materials, Centre for Stimulating R & D efforts in electronics, C-DAC, etc.

Setting up of advisory committees on science and technology

1363. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Science and Technology has asked the Central Ministries to set up Science and Technology Advisory Committees in each Ministry;

(b) the number of Ministries that have so far set up these Advisory Committees; and

(c) what will be the main purpose of the Committee and to what extent these will help in introducing Science and Technology in the various departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Currently, 19 Ministries/Departments have set up Science and Technology Advisory Committees;

(c) The Advisory Committee are *inter-*

(c) The Advisory Committee are *inter*

strategy, an integrated Technology Development Plan, a policy framework, for promotion of new technologies and programmes of action to introduce scientific and technological content relevant to the concerned departments.

Task Force on Electronics for Health Care

1304. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the task force on electronics for health care set up by Government in August has recommended the launching of a technology mission;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the suggestion;

(c) what will be the main functions of these missions; and

(d) what are the other suggestions made by the task force and to what extent the Department of Electronics had examined these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Task Force on Electronics for Health Care recommended institution of a Technology Development Mission

(b) The report of the Task Force has been submitted and recommendations are under consideration.

(c) The main objective envisaged of the Technology Development Mission is to develop market and establish indigenous systems of health care programme at primary, community and district health centres, teaching and R & D institutions, and technology upgradation of specific medical electronic equipment.

(d) The other main suggestions of the Task Force include the following:—

(i) Indigenous equipment supplied to all organisations enjoying duty free import status be treated as 'DEEMED EXPORT'.

(ii) Central Agency be formed for standardisation saftey and quality certification of all medical electronic equipment.

(iii) A forum be established for a continuing dialogue between the Central Ministries like Health, Planning, Industry, Department of Electronics, the State Health Ministries, the professional bodies of Hospitals, Medical Practitioners, with the various manufacturers including Associations.

(iv) To give special emphasis on Maintenance and Manpower development in Biomedical Engineering.

The recommendations are under consideration.

Design of Third Aircraft Carrier for Navy

1365. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that navy's third aircraft carrier is to have a French design;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a change in design is being preferred, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) to (c) A contract has been recently signed with M/s. SOFMA of France for the Concept Design Study of a Sea Control Ship in accordance with the Staff Requirements of the Indian Navy.

Purchase of Alcoholic Drinks by Defence Canteen

1366. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what criteria has been laid down by the defence canteen store purchase department for enlistment of manufacturers/distributors' for purchase of Alcoholic drinks such as IMFL, Rum, Beer etc.;